IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
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26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) A system for improving the collapse resistance of an expandable device, comprising:

an expandable tubular system for use in a wellbore environment, the expandable tubular system having a first layer overlapping a second layer; and

a locking mechanism, wherein upon expansion of the expandable tubular system, the locking mechanism facilitates maintaining the expandable tubular system in the expanded condition.

30. (Original) The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the expandable tubular system comprises a tubular member having a plurality of bistable cells.

31. (Original) The system as recited in claim 30, wherein the first layer and the second layer are formed of a filter material wrapped about the tubular member.

32. (Original) The system as recited in claim 31, wherein the locking mechanism is coupled to the first layer and to the second layer.

33. (Original) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein the locking mechanism comprises ratchet teeth.

34. (Original) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein the locking mechanism comprises detents.

35. (Original) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein the locking mechanism comprises angled bristles.

36. (Original) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a plurality of vanes.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (New) A method of utilizing a sand screen within a wellbore, comprising:

delivering a sand screen to a wellbore region having a nonuniform diameter;

applying an expansion force to the sand screen in a radially outward direction; and

expanding the sand screen to substantially eliminate any annulus between the sand screen and the wellbore region having the nonuniform diameter.

44. (New) The method as recited in claim 43, wherein expanding comprises creating contact between the sand screen and a wall defining the wellbore region.

45. (New) The method as recited in claim 44, wherein expanding comprises applying an outwardly directed force against the wall with the sand screen.

46. (New) The method as recited in claim wherein expanding comprises expanding the sand screen into the wellbore region having two dissimilar diameters.

47. (New) The method as recited in claim 43, wherein applying comprises moving an expansion tool through an interior of the sand screen.

48. (New) A system for filtering in a wellbore environment, comprising:

a sand screen having a plurality of expandable filter sections and at least one seal section, wherein the plurality of expandable filter sections are longitudinally separated by the at least one seal section.

49. (New) The system as recited in claim 48, wherein the at least one seal section comprises a plurality of seal sections.

50. (New) The system as recited in claim 48, wherein the at least one seal section comprises an elastomeric material.

51. (New) The system as recited in claim 48, wherein the at least one seal section has an expansion ratio at least as great as the expansion ratio of the plurality of expandable filter sections.

52. (New) A method of controlling filtration in a wellbore environment, comprising:

arranging an expandable tubular system with overlapping filter sheets; and

positioning uniquely configured openings in each overlapping filter sheet such that upon expansion of the expandable tubular system, the overlapping filter sheets create a predetermined flow path regime.

53. (New) The method as recited in claim 52, wherein positioning comprises selecting the predetermined flow path regime to create a pressure drop that varies along the length of the expandable tubular system.

54. (New) The method as recited in claim 52, wherein positioning comprises selecting the predetermined flow path regime to create a greater restriction to flow in

specific regions of the expandable tubular system relative to other regions of the expandable tubular system.

55. (New) The method as recited in claim 52, further comprising forming the overlapping filter sheets of metal foil.

56. (New) The method as recited in claim 52, wherein positioning comprises forming the uniquely configured openings with differing shapes on respective overlapping filter sheets of a pair of adjacent overlapping filter sheets.

57. (New) The method as recited in claim 52, wherein positioning comprises forming the uniquely configured openings as slots at a first angle in a first filter sheet and as slots at a second angle in a second filter sheet.

58. (New) The method as recited in claim 52, wherein positioning comprises forming the uniquely configured openings such that the openings in a first sheet overlap the openings in a second sheet to create a unique combined openings upon expansion of the expandable tubular system.

59. (New) A method of making an expandable screen, comprising:

positioning an inner conduit on a plate;

locating a filter material intermediate the inner conduit and the plate; and

simultaneously bending the plate and the filter material around the inner conduit to form the expandable sand screen.

60. (New) The method as recited in claim 59, wherein simultaneously bending comprises leaving a gap between circumferential ends of the plate to create a passageway.

61. (New) The method as recited in claim 60, further comprising attaching the plate to the inner conduit.

62. (New) The method as recited in claim 61, wherein attaching comprises welding the plate to the inner conduit.

63. (New) The method as recited in claim 60, further comprising locating at least one control line in the passageway.

64. (New) The method as recited in claim 61, further comprising connecting the filter material to the plate prior to bending the plate about the inner conduit.

65. (New) The method as recited in claim 64, wherein connecting comprises welding the filter material to the plate.

66. (New) A method of making an expandable screen, comprising:

providing an expandable base pipe;

locating a filter layer along at least a portion of an exterior of the expandable base plate; and

attaching a plurality of circumferentially adjacent shroud components to the expandable base pipe to create a shroud positioned generally about the filter layer.

67. (New) The method as recited in claim 66, wherein locating comprises positioning a plurality of overlapping filter sheets around the base pipe.

68. (New) The method as recited in claim 66, further comprising forming the base pipe with a plurality of bistable cells.

69. (New) The method as recited in claim 68, further comprising forming the shroud with a plurality of bistable cells.

70. (New) The method as recited in claim 67, further comprising attaching the plurality of overlapping filter sheets to the shroud.

71. (New) The method as recited in claim 66, further comprising welding opposed ends of each circumferentially adjacent shroud component to the base pipe.

72. (New) The method as recited in claim 67, further comprising forming the plurality of overlapping filter sheets from a free-wire mesh sandwiched between a pair of outer sheets.

73. (New) The method as recited in claim 67, further comprising forming the plurality of overlapping filter sheets from a woven material sandwiched between a pair of outer sheets.

74. (New) A system for filtering in a wellbore environment, comprising:

a base pipe;

a shroud disposed around the base pipe; and

a plurality of filter sheets in which each filter sheet has a free end, wherein the free ends of adjacent pairs of filter sheets are positioned in an overlapping configuration.

75. (New) The system as recited in claim 74, wherein each filter sheet has a plurality of slotted openings.

76. (New) The system as recited in claim 75, wherein the plurality of slotted openings are oriented such that the slotted openings of adjacent pairs of filter sheets crisscross each other.

77. (New) The system as recited in claim 76, wherein the slotted openings of adjacent pairs of filter sheets are crisscrossed at approximately 90 degrees with respect each other.

78. (New) The system as recited in claim 74, wherein the plurality of filter sheets are attached to the shroud.

79. (New) The system as recited in claim 74, wherein the shroud is formed of a plurality of circumferentially adjacent shroud components.